

General Information

The Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) tournament monitoring program consists of two distinct components. These are : 1) registration, and 2) reporting. Registration is necessary to annually identify all active HMS tournaments. Tournament reporting provides specific information that may be used in stock assessment programs.

Tournament Registration

How do I know if I need to register my tournament with NOAA Fisheries?

All tournament operators must notify the National Marine Fisheries Service (NOAA Fisheries) of the purpose, dates, and location of any fishing tournament involving highly migratory species (HMS) *at least four weeks prior* to commencement of the tournament.

HMS include:

- Atlantic Billfish (blue & white marlin, sailfish)
- Tunas (bluefin, yellowfin, skipjack, albacore, bigeye)
- Sharks (large and small coastals, pelagics)
- Swordfish

A **tournament** is defined as “any fishing competition involving Atlantic HMS in which participants must register or otherwise

enter, or in which a prize or award is offered for catching or landing such fish.”

A **tournament operator** means a person or entity responsible for maintaining records of participants and results for tournaments conducted from a port in an Atlantic coastal state, including the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, regardless of whether fish are retained.

How do I register my tournament?

Please call the Southeast Regional Office, HMS Division at (727) 570-5447 to obtain a registration form, or download it at: www.nmfs.noaa.gov/sfa/hms/tournament.htm

or by clicking on “Tournaments” at www.nmfspermits.com.

Tournament operators must submit the completed registration form to the address indicated on the form or FAX it to (727) 570-5656 *at least four weeks prior* to the commencement of the tournament.

What information do I need to supply when registering a HMS tournament?

Information requested on the registration form includes:

- Tournament name
- Location (city and state)
- Date of tournament
- Director name and contact information

The tournament operator must also indicate on the form all HMS for which points or prizes are to be awarded in the tournament.

Please include a copy of the tournament brochure and tournament rules with your registration form, if they are available.

Tournament Reporting

How will I know if my tournament has been selected for reporting?

NOAA Fisheries will notify HMS tournament operators in writing if a tournament has been selected for reporting. If a tournament is selected, a reporting form will be sent to the operator. The reporting form must be returned to NOAA Fisheries within 7 days after tournament fishing has been completed.

What tournament information is to be reported to NOAA Fisheries?

Selected tournament operators must maintain, and submit, a record of catch and effort on the forms provided by NOAA Fisheries. In addition, billfish tournament operators must submit radio logs or catch certificates containing capture information including: fishing hours, name of all boats fishing that day, bait types, fight times for all billfish captured or released, and weight, length and sex of each fish brought ashore.

Where do I send the completed tournament reporting forms?

Tournament operators must submit the completed forms to NOAA Fisheries at the address indicated on the reporting form along with a copy of the tournament rules, postmarked no later than seven days after the conclusion of the tournament.

Why are tournament registration and reporting necessary?

Tournament registration and reporting is a critical component of the HMS monitoring program. The collected information is used to estimate tournament fishing effort and landings of HMS for stock assessments, national and international reports and other monitoring efforts.

For more information please contact:

NOAA Fisheries
HMS Management Division
9721 Executive Center Drive North
St. Petersburg, FL 33702

Phone: (727) 570-5447
FAX: (727) 570-5656

This pamphlet provides only a summary of HMS tournament registration and reporting requirements, as of February 2003. Complete regulations may be found at 50 CFR part 635.

Since fishery rules are subject to change, fishermen should familiarize themselves with the latest complete regulations and are responsible for complying with all current regulations.

NOAA Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species Mgmt. Division
9721 Executive Center Drive North
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Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Tournament Monitoring Program

Registration & Reporting Requirements



NOAA Fisheries
Office of Sustainable Fisheries
Highly Migratory Species Management
Division

